

**STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

42. (previously presented) A purified protein or polypeptide comprising amino acids 297 to 567 as shown in SEQ. ID NO. 2.

43-44. (canceled).

45. (previously presented) A purified protein of claim 42, wherein the protein consists of the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ. ID NO. 2.

46-47. (canceled).

48. (previously presented) A composition comprising the purified protein or polypeptide of claim 42 and an acceptable carrier.

49-55. (canceled).

56. (previously presented) A composition comprising the purified protein of claim 45 and an acceptable carrier.